

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A polymer electrolyte membrane comprising a first polymer comprising acidic subunits and a second polymer comprising basic subunits, wherein (i) at least one of said first or second polymers is an elastomeric copolymer further comprising elastomeric subunit, or (ii) the polymer membrane further comprises an elastomeric polymer comprising elastomeric subunits.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said first polymer comprises sulfonic acid, phosphoric acid or carboxylic acid groups.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 2 wherein said first polymer comprises sulfonated polyetherether ketone sulfonated polyetherether sulfone.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said second polymer comprises an aromatic amine, an aliphatic amine or a heterocyclic nitrogen.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 4 wherein said second polymer comprises polybenzimidazole or polyvinylimidazole.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said elastomeric polymer comprises a semi-interpenetrating network in said membrane.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said elastomeric polymer comprises polyacrylonitrile.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said elastomeric copolymer comprises an elastomeric subunit comprising acrylonitrile.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said first polymer comprises sulfonated polyetherether ketone, and said elastomeric copolymer comprises basic subunits comprising vinylimidazole and elastomeric subunits comprising acrylonitrile.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said second polymer comprises polyvinylimidazole and said elastomeric polymer comprises acidic subunits comprising 2-acrylonamide-2-methyl-1 propane sulfonic acid and elastomeric subunits comprising acrylonitrile.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said membrane is permeable to protons.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said membrane is substantially impermeable to methanol.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A membrane electrode assembly comprising the polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 and first and second catalysts positioned respectively on first and second opposite surfaces of said membrane.

Claim 14 (original): A membrane electrode assembly of claim 13 further comprising a cathode electrode and an anode electrode, wherein each of said electrodes is separately in electrical communication with said first and said second catalysts.

Claim 15 (currently amended): An electrochemical device comprising the polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1.

Claim 16 (original): The electrochemical device of claim 15 comprising a battery.

Claim 17 (original): A fuel cell comprising the polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1.

Claim 18 (original): A fuel cell comprising the membrane electrode assembly of claim 13 or 14.

Claim 19 (original): An electronic device comprising the electrochemical device of claim 15.

Claim 20 (original): An electronic device comprising the fuel cell of claim 17 or 18.

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Claim 21(currently amended): A method for forming the polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 comprising combining at least one of said first polymer or said second polymer with said elastomeric polymer or said elastomeric copolymer.

Claim 22 (original): A method for forming a membrane electrode assembly according to claim 13 comprising contacting each of the opposite surfaces of the membrane of claim 1 with a composition comprising one or more catalysts to form cathode and anode catalyst layers.

Claim 23 (original): The method of claim 22 further comprising electrically contacting said cathode and anode catalysts with anode and cathode electrodes.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A method for forming a polymer membrane suitable for use in a membrane electrode assembly comprising treating a polymer membrane with sulfuric acid at room temperature wherein said polymer membrane comprises a first polymer comprising acidic subunits and a second polymer comprising basic subunits, wherein (i) at least one of said first or second polymers is an elastomeric copolymer further comprising elastomeric subunit, or (ii) the polymer membrane further comprises an elastomeric polymer comprising elastomeric subunits.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The method of claim 24 wherein the basic subunits of said second polymer comprise polyvinylimidazole.

Claim 26 (withdrawn): A polymer membrane made according to the method of claim 24.

Claim 27 (withdrawn): A polymer membrane suitable for use in a membrane electrode assembly comprising a first polymer comprising acidic subunits and a second polymer comprising vinylimidazole subunits, wherein (i) at least one of said first or second polymers is an elastomeric copolymer further comprising elastomeric subunit, or (ii) the polymer membrane further comprises an elastomeric polymer comprising elastomeric subunits.

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Claim 28 (previously presented): A membrane electrode assembly comprising the polymer membrane of claim 26 or 27 and first and second catalysts positioned respectively on opposite surfaces of said membrane.

Claim 29 (previously presented): A membrane electrode assembly of claim 28 further comprising a cathode electrode and an anode electrode wherein each of said electrodes is separately in electrical communication with said first and said second catalysts.

Claim 30 (previously presented): An electrochemical device comprising the polymer membrane of claim 26 or 27.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The electrochemical device of claim 30 comprising a battery.

Claim 32 (previously presented): A fuel cell comprising the polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 26 or 27.

Claim 33 (previously presented): A fuel cell comprising the membrane electrode assembly of claim 28 or 29.

Claim 34 (previously presented): An electronic device comprising the fuel cell of claim 32 or 33.